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DE RUEHKA #0741/01 2100900
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FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9231
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 2900
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHMCSUU/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DHAKA 000741

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/INSE AND EEB/ESC
COMMERCE FOR TRADE ADVOCACY CENTER BRIAN WILLIAMS
COMMERCE ALSO FOR ITA DIANA FONOVICH
TREASURY FOR YEE WONG

EO 12958 DECL: 07/26/2019
TAGS ENRG, PREL, PGOV, ECON, PINR, EINV, BG
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR URGES PRIME MINISTER,S ADVISER TO
ACCELERATE ENERGY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT
REF: A. 08DHAKA1041 B. 08DHAKA517

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).
(U) This is an action request, please see para 8 below.

Summary

1. (C) The Ambassador recently urged the Prime Minister,s Energy Adviser, Tawfiq Elahi Chowdhury, to resolve several pressing issues, includir

Blocking it off for gas exploration

2. (C) The Adviser told the Ambassador during a meeting on July 23 that Conoco Phillips would likely be awarded the two uncontested offshore l

Increasing the flow

3.(SBU) The Ambassador noted that one way for the GOB to begin to address Bangladesh,s energy shortage would be to add compressors to the count

Coal as a potential solution

4. (C) The Ambassador noted that Bangladesh,s coal reserves were vast and of the highest quality; coal appeared to provide a potential way to
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to rehabilitate the mined areas. The Ambassador promised that the USG would look for ways to help the GOB and added that open pit mining seemed

5. (C) The Adviser remarked that the proposed coal mine in Phulbari was politically sensitive, in light of the impoverished,historically oppre

Regional cooperation afoot?

6. (C) The Ambassador and the Adviser also discussed USAID,s South Asian Regional Initiative for Energy (SARI/E) (which promotes energy securi

Comment

7. (C) Despite its enormous potential, Bangladesh still faces daunting challenges as it attempts to resolve its energy crisis. The GOB has foc

Action Request

8. (U) Embassy Dhaka requests Washington agencies, help in responding to the GOB,s request for technical assistance in determining what type c